



THOMAS J. MILLER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

## Department of Justice

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
HOOVER BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319  
TELEPHONE: 515/281-5164  
FACSIMILE: 515/281-4209

For Immediate Release – May 5, 2010  
Contact - Eric Tabor (515) 281-5191

### **Statement of Attorney General Tom Miller Concerning Fort Dodge Campaign Contribution Matter May 5, 2010**

Statement of Attorney General Tom Miller:

I have decided that my office will ask the Executive Council to appoint a special prosecutor to handle the matter concerning alleged improper contributions from Fort Dodge gambling interests to Governor Culver's campaign committee. Specifically, we will ask that Des Moines attorney Lawrence (Larry) F. Scalise be appointed to prosecute the case.

After careful consideration, I have concluded this office has no actual conflict of interest in this case. However, I have also concluded that there is an appearance of a conflict of interest in this matter that is sufficient to lead me to seek a special prosecutor for this action.

This was not an easy decision. My office has very rarely withdrawn from a case in this manner. However, I believe the need for public confidence in the criminal justice process outweighs any other consideration. The public has the right to a criminal prosecution that is not subject to any unnecessary suspicion about its impartiality or objectivity.

Mr. Scalise is exceptionally well qualified for this task. He is a life-long resident of Iowa. He was an Assistant Polk County Attorney (1959-61), Director of the Law Enforcement Division of the Iowa Liquor Control Commission (1963), and Attorney General of Iowa (1965-67). He has for many years been a successful lawyer in private practice in Des Moines.

Mr. Scalise has a long history of public service. He was appointed by Governor Ray as the Vice Chairman of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission (1974-77). He was appointed by Governor Branstad as the first Chairman of the Iowa State Racing and Gaming Commission (1983-88), to guide the Commission through its crucial initial years.

Mr. Scalise accepted an assignment with the Federal Government as Deputy Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel in the matter of Henry Cisneros, then the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (1995-2002).